

Orange Factory Village, House No. 13
Old Orange Factory Road (St. Rt. 1628)
Durham
Durham County
North Carolina

HABS No. NC-9 G

HABS
NC,
32-ORFA,
8-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

HABS
NC,
32-ORFA,
8-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ORANGE FACTORY VILLAGE, HOUSE No. 13

HABS No. NC-9 G

Location:

Old Orange Factory Road, Durham County, NC
(Number 13)
USGS NW/4 Durham North 15' Quadrangle, Universal
Transverse Mercator Coordinates
17.691100.4000070

Present Owner:

Susanne Schneider
Real Estate Administrator
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Present Occupant:

Demolished, summer 1984

Significance:

The Orange Factory houses, dating from the 1860's were built to accommodate employees of one of the earliest cotton mills in North Carolina. They assume historical significance as components of the mill complex and as the former nucleus of a company village, Orange Factory, North Carolina.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1850's to 1860's
2. Original and subsequent owners: Pages 33-36 of Orange Factory Village, HAI No. NC-9, show the chain of title to the land on which the house stands.
3. Original plans and construction: No original drawings or plans have been located. Two story, three-bay wide frame house is original. Original windows and doors retain their simple Greek Revival trim.
4. Alterations and additions: Shed roof front porch with plain roof posts added about 1916. Double shoulder chimney on left side is apparently stucco over stone on lower part and replacement brick above. Shed room additions across rear of house. Two second story windows closed in.

B. Historical Context:

Orange Factory, a small rural mill village located in the Little River valley, dates from the 1850's and provides an important picture of the early stages in the development of industrial life in North Carolina. Its collection of Greek Revival style workers' housing represents one of perhaps less than five remaining examples in North Carolina of pre-Civil War mill workers' housing. The remains of the cotton factory, water race system and grist mill, along with the dam, workers' housing with garden plots, supervisors' houses, schoolhouse, church, cemetery and well show the physical context in which the social and economic life of this self-sustaining community functioned. Orange Factory village is representative of the period when industrial sites were dependent on water power and thus located along the waterways of North Carolina in relatively isolated, rural settings. Unlike some early industrial sites which developed into larger towns, and other later ones which started out in more urban settings, Orange Factory has retained its small-scale, rural atmosphere indicative of the early mill villages in the state.

Prepared from materials cited in
Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, by

Annette Liggett
Environmental Coordinator
City of Durham
March 1984

(House Number 13)

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Constructed as part of the Orange Factory Mill complex, this worker's house typifies the wood framed, clapboard sided worker's houses which constituted mid-nineteenth century, rural vernacular architecture. In general, they are I plan, center hall, two story structures with one story additions.
2. Condition of fabric: The exterior masonry was in sound condition as were the clapboard walls, windows and doors. Roofs were generally in good condition. The structure was scheduled to be demolished during the summer of 1984.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The measurement of the main structure is 40'-3" x 20'-2-7/8". A front porch attached to the south end of the house measures 16'-2" x 5'-11-1/2".
2. Foundations: The main two story section is built on rubble stone piers with concrete block infill. The rear wing of the house is supported by a concrete block foundation.
3. Walls: Exterior walls are sheathed in flat, wood clapboard, horizontal siding with a 5" exposure. Corners of the house were clad in double, wood boards. The walls of the house were painted.
4. Structural system, framing: The interior and exterior walls were constructed with wood studs which supported wood floor joists, neither of which were accessible. The roof system consisted of wood rafters (exposed external to the house at the eaves) and it is assumed from the upper story configuration that the rafters were connected with wood ties.
5. Porches: The raised porch on the south elevation of the house has a wood board floor supported by a solid concrete block foundation. Four (4) precast steps on concrete block foundations lead up to the porch from grade. A shed roof sheltering the porch is supported by four, square, wood columns with simple boxed capitals. A second porch is located on the rear or north side of the house. The floor is a slab on grade. The wood framed walls are screened on

the upper 1/3 and sheathed in wood clapboards for the lower 2/3 of wall area. A simple, shallow shed roof covers the entire porch. A screened door leads to the yard at the rear of the house.

6. Chimneys: One large brick chimney adjoins the west elevation of the two story portion of the house. The lower half of the chimney is stuccoed and is believed to be either brick or rubble stone. The chimney originally served one fireplace on the first floor and one on the second. The fireplaces have subsequently been filled in.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The main doorway, located in the center of the south elevation, consists of a painted, five (5) panel, solid wood door with a flat, wooden board architrave.
- b. Windows: All window sash are six over six double hung. The window architraves of the front two story section of the house are fluted boards with corner blocks. The architraves of the rear section are flat boards with corner blocks. Two second floor windows on the south elevation have been removed and infilled with horizontal wood clapboarding.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof on the main section of the house is a simple gable covered in corrugated galvanized tin. The front porch and rear porch roofs are a simple shed also covered in corrugated galvanized tin.
- b. Cornice: A single, rectangular board forms the barge boards at the gable ends of the roof. There is no cornice at the eaves where the rafter tails were left exposed.
- c. Dormers, towers: Not applicable.

- C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. Cellar: The main house is constructed over a shallow, dirt floor crawl space.
- b. First floor: The main section of the house is divided into two rooms. The front door enters from the porch

into the corner of the larger of these rooms which also contains an enclosed fireplace. A doorway in the center of the east wall connects to the smaller front room. A door along the south wall opens into a stair to the second floor. A doorway in the center of the house connects the front parlor to the kitchen in the rear. On the east side of the kitchen is a small pantry off of which is a bathroom. To the rear of the kitchen is the attached screened porch.

- c. Second floor: The upper room consists of a single large space with a fireplace (now enclosed) on the west wall and a stair to the first floor along the east wall.
 - d. Attic: Inaccessible.
2. Stairway: The stairway connecting the first and second floors was enclosed at the foot of the stairs with walls and a door. The initial run of steps along the south wall includes a large window. An intermediate landing is located in the southeast corner and the stair continues along the east wall to the second floor. The stair opening is not enclosed at the second floor.
 3. Flooring: The flooring throughout the house is tongue and groove pine boards. Vinyl asbestos tiles were installed in the small first-floor front room and in the kitchen.
 4. Walls and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings on the first floor were originally plastered. The first floor front rooms now have plywood paneling on the walls and acoustic tiled ceilings. Walls on the second floor were 3-1/2" beaded boards (horizontally attached).
 5. Doorways and doors: Doors are five horizontal paneled painted wood doors. Doorways have simple, unmolded, wood board architraves.
 6. Decorative features: On the first and second floors are mantelpieces and fireplace surrounds. Both fireplaces have been enclosed. The first floor surround is 7'-0" wide and consists of flat boards and a simple bracketed mantel shelf.
 7. Hardware: The doors were hung on simple cast butt hinges and operated with surface mounted rim locks with china knobs. Window sash locks were simple metal castings.

8. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Heat was provided by an oil fired hot air furnace. Cooling is provided by portable window units. Ventilation is achieved through open windows.
- b. Lighting: The house is equipped with wiring, outlets, and a few rooms have modest ceiling mounted light fixtures.
- c. Plumbing: The house is equipped with plumbing including well water and a septic system.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The house faces south and is set on ground which slopes gradually from east to west. The house faces onto an east-west dirt road which connects to Old Orange Factory Road. The size of the lot is unknown.
2. Outbuildings: None.
3. Landscaping: The house is surrounded by a grass lawn. No formal plantings exist, however, several large trees stand nearby and large shrubs grow in front of and to the east side of the house.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early views:

1913 Sanborn Insurance Map

1937 Sanborn Insurance Map

B. Interviews:

Interviews are cited in Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, on page 46.

C. Bibliography:

Secondary and published sources: The major source for all material was Cultural Resource Investigations at Orange Factory, Libscomb's and Johnston's Mills, Durham Co., NC prepared by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc., Newark Delaware, in December 1983. Other sources were those cited in that document, as shown.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Due to the proposed construction of a water supply reservoir by the City of Durham, a Memorandum of Agreement was designed which would assure the mitigation of impact to defined significant cultural resources within the reservoir basin. These included archaeological resources consisting of three mill sites and a mill village, Orange Factory; the architectural resources at the mill village (workers houses), and the history and folk-lifeways of the villagers. The necessary data recovery operations, as specified in the MOA, were conducted by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. and qualified consultants. This was accomplished during the spring and summer of 1983. Data recovered concerns 18th and 19th century grist mills, a 19th and early 20th century textile mill operation, and the 19th and 20th century workers village and community residents.

The combination of historical sites archaeology, historic documentary research, architectural recordation, and oral history studies, was generally effective in assuring the preservation of much of the cultural background and details of the rural North Carolina industrial complex.

ADDENDUM TO:
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Durham County
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PHOTOGRAPHS

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SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
100 Alabama St. NW
Atlanta, GA 30303